

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 10, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at

7:00 p.m. in the Wawaloam School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and Frank Maher. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Member William Munroe arrived at 7:40 p.m. Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester left early at 7:40 p.m.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Jaclyn Manchester read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Exeter Town Councilman Wayne Cross asked if the Superintendent had received a copy of the petition, filed with the Exeter Board of Canvassers, from a group of Exeter voters - Petition to Amend Agreement Between the Towns of Exeter and West Greenwich with Respect to the Formation of a Regional School

District.

Superintendent Seitsinger confirmed the petition was received and copies were provided to all School Committee members.

Member Clay suggested when Executive Session is a 6:30 p.m. agenda item, the posting reflect the regular meeting start time as 7:00 p.m. for clarity purposes.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report - Jaclyn Manchester presented members with invitations to the upcoming Sr. High School Art Show, Tuesday, May 17, 2005, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Sr. High library. She encouraged all to attend.

Wawaloam/Lineham School Presentation – Principal Myers welcomed all and gave an overview of accomplishments at Wawaloam and Lineham Schools over this past academic year. She explained the schools have high expectations and many parents have commented how happy they are with the work that comes home with their children. Principal Myers communicated Lineham is seeking accreditation with NAEYC, (National Association of Educators of Young Children), and this fall will be hosting accreditation visitors. Principal Myers noted that Wawaloam School was ranked as a high performance school last year by the RI Department of Education and she highlighted various programs used at both Lineham and Wawaloam schools. First grade teacher Barbara Valois gave details

about the 6-Traits writing program and how she uses it to teach in her classroom. Six students who were in attendance, Brenna, Brianna, Adam, John, Marcus, Mackenzie, and Casey read stories they wrote to committee members.

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Chair DeSack extended thanks to Principal Myers, Ms. Valois, and the students for the marvelous job they did and for coming to the meeting.

Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester left at this time.

Member Bill Munroe arrived at this time.

Capital Asset Presentation – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an overview of the EWG Regional School District Asset Protection Plan 2005 – 2009. He explained State Housing Aid provides funds to districts for capital improvements and upgrades and the average reimbursement of total project costs is approximately 46% to 50%. Mr. Ross explained the Asset Protection Plan, a five-year plan used to document the needs of each building and the plan implementation.

Members asked several probing and clarifying questions.

Mr. Ross summarized by saying the 5-year district asset protection plan reflects capital improvement projects that, should the district decide to complete, the district is entitled to some state reimbursement for; however, the district is under no obligation to complete any of the projects. Mr. Ross also noted the reimbursement rate has typically been 52-54%, the rate can change as it is based on the wealth of the district and the student population of the district, and at any point during the continuum of the five-years that the district needs to, it can add additional improvements to the plan.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 26, 2005, Executive Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2005

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence – (As recommended by the

Superintendent)

a. Request from Mary Louise Greboval for a leave of absence from her Sr. High School Foreign Language/History Teacher position for the 2005 – 2006 academic year.

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b. Request from Beth Brocato to extend her leave of absence from her Jr. High School Science Teacher position for the remainder of the 2004-2005 academic year.

c. Request from Regina Kilday for a sabbatical leave of absence from her Metcalf Elementary School Teacher position for the 2005– 2006 academic year.

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 160,661.45

D. Budget Transfer Approval

End of Consent Agenda

Member McFadden moved to seal the Executive Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2005. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Superintendent Seitsinger reviewed the correspondence listed below:

E. Correspondence – (1) Sodexho Celebration Flyer, (2) E-mail regarding School Committee Leadership Seminar on May 15, 2005, (3) Sr. High Proposed April 2006 Trip to Italy & Greece Information, (4) Retirement Party Announcement for Marcia Melanson

F. Monthly Status Reports – With regard to the Special Education Status Report, Member Clay suggested the report reflect enrollment status data for October as well as the present time, in order to demonstrate any changes and for comparison purposes. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo will include October data in future status reports.

Vice Chair Cicero asked for details concerning correspondence (1). Superintendent Seitsinger related the Sodexho Celebration will take place on May 25th, 5:30 p.m., at Coventry High School.

With regard to the Maintenance Status Report, Member Maher asked if Principal Myers and/or Principal Boyce had any additional items of concern to add to the maintenance list. Principal Myers

communicated there is a drainage problem at Wawaloam School in the playground area which puddles and inhibits wintertime recess. Principal Boyce explained a similar situation at Metcalf School due to the

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underground drainage. Superintendent Seitsinger will contact Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley and make him aware of these issues.

Chair DeSack inquired as to the status of the three new cafeteria tables at Metcalf School. Director of Administration Robert Ross explained the new tables have arrived; however, one arrived broken and all may not be the correct size, (too small). He also related he is experiencing difficulty returning the tables without incurring extra expenses, as a 10-day return policy has passed. He explained he has not yet paid for the tables. After some discussion, it was decided Member Munroe will contact the sales representative at Adirondack regarding the size and price of the tables, Mr. Ross and Member Munroe will work together to remedy the situation, and Mr. Ross will make certain there is no penalty for holding the payment of the tables. Mr. Ross and Member Munroe will update committee members at the next meeting on May 24, 2005.

Monthly Budget Projection 2004 – 2005 – Mr. Ross communicated we are still in the black and there has been a \$3,000 decrease in funds since the last report.

Monthly Sub Committee Report – Member Munroe inquired as to how many members serve on the Policy Committee. Chair DeSack explained there were three members, Members Clay, Maher, and Vice Chair Cicero.

NEW BUSINESS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Participation in Extra Curricular Activities, Including Athletics Policy #8607-Revision – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of a hand-out Principal Boulé provided to the committee, which demonstrated several detailed scenarios of 1.8 to 2.0 GPA report cards. Superintendent Seitsinger explained Principal Boulé's main concern is that by changing the GPA from 1.8 to 2.0, it will impact the academically challenged students, and that these students may select classes that are not challenging, in order to remain eligible for their extra curricular activity. After lengthy discussion, consensus was to implement a written academic plan agreement between the student, parent, and Principal Boulé - which will be signed by all parties, consider widening the probationary period, and reword the policy to show a GPA gap of 1.8 to 1.99. The policy committee will make the recommended revisions and this item will be continued onto the next agenda as an official 1st Reading.

Non-Discrimination Policy-Students Policy #2151-2nd Reading – No further recommendations made. This item will continue onto the next agenda for adoption.

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Non-Discrimination Policy-Employees Policy #2150-2nd Reading – No further recommendations made. This item will continue onto the next agenda for adoption.

Sr. High Proposed April 2006 Trip to Italy & Greece – Committee members had a lengthy discussion regarding the Proposed 2006 Sr. High Trip to Italy & Greece, as well as student travel in general. Consensus was that the School Committee should not address this trip or future trips, as it is a misrepresentation to parents that the committee is sanctioning the trip. Also, if teachers decide to organize a trip, the organization will be done off school property and students and teachers will be considered absent from school should the trip take place during school time. The Policy Committee will review the student travel policy, make revisions, and Member Maher will contact Chair DeSack when this item is ready to bring forward for further

discussion on a future agenda.

Homework Policy #7810 – Adopted – Member McFadden moved to adopt Homework Policy #7810. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – May 24th – School Committee Meeting

Jr. High School Presentation

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Adjournment – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK